

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

COME-00 GSA-02 TRSE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ISM:DFMEYERS:RDM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EMIN, IT

SUBJECT: MERCURY AND FLUORSPAR STOCKPILE DISPOSALS

REF: A. ROME 10930

B. STATE 79146

1. WHEN DEPT INVITED ITALIAN EMBASSY TO DISCUSS MERCURY PROGRAM IN APRIL 1973 (REFTEL B), EMBASSY MERELY REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION ON PROGRAM AND WAS PROVIDED SAME. NO COMMENTS WERE EVER RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY.

2. MERCURY DISPOSAL PROGRAM FOR FY73 WAS 6,000 FLASKS AND REVISED PROGRAM FOR FY74 WAS TO HAVE BEEN 12,000 FLASKS. HOWEVER, ONLY 6,648 FLASKS WERE AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL WHEN DEPT CONSULTED WITH PRODUCERS. DEPT PROMISED TO RE-CONSULT WITH PRODUCERS IF OMNIBUS BILL AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL 83,800 FLASKS FOR DISPOSAL PASSED CONGRESS. LEGISLATION HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ENACTED.

3. GSA DISPOSED OF ONLY 1,563 FLASKS IN FY73, LEAVING BALANCE OF 6,148 FLASKS ON JULY 1. SINCE THEN GSA HAS SOLD COMMERCIALY ONLY 500 FLASKS AND TRANSFERRED 619 TO OTHER USG AGENCIES. THUS, 5,129 FLASKS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
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FOR DISPOSAL.

4. SINCE GSA HAS DISPOSED OF VERY SMALL QUANTITIES OF

STOCKPILE MERCURY IN FY73 AND THUS FAR IN FY74, GSA SALES
HAVE HAD LITTLE IF ANY EFFECT ON MARKET.

5. GSA HAS TOTAL INVENTORY OF 890,000 SHORT DRY TONS
OF ACID GRADE FLUORSPAR, 294,925 SDT OF METALLURGICAL
FLUORSPAR AND 116,863 SDT OF NONSTOCKPILE GRADE METALLUR-
GICAL FLUORSPAR. OF THESE AMOUNTS, 890,000 SDT OF ACID
GRADE, 135,925 SDT OF METALLURGICAL AND 116,863 SDT OF
NONSTOCKPILE GRADE HAVE BEEN DECLARED EXCESS TO STOCKPILE
NEEDS.

6. NO DISPOSAL PROGRAM EXISTS FOR ANY GRADES OF FLUORSPAR
SINCE THERE IS NO CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY. WHEN OMNIBUS
BILL COVERING FLUORSPAR DISPOSALS IS ENACTED BY CONGRESS
AND GSA PROPOSES DISPOSAL PROGRAM, DEPT WILL CONSULT
WITH INTERESTED PRODUCING COUNTRIES. KISSINGER

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